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HUNGARY'S AUGMENTED FIVE-YEAR PLAN IN AGRICULTURE

Gyorgy Pogacsas

Under the augmented Five-Year Plan, appropriations for the development of agriculture were increased from the originally budgeted 8 billion forints to 11 billion forints, of which 3.5 billion forints were allotted to mechanization. The machine-tractor stations and state farms are to receive 20,100 tractors and various agricultural machines, such as 2,600 combines and 9,600 binders, in addition to potato planters, tractor-drawn grain planters, cultivators, selectors, etc.

At the termination of the Five-Year Plan, total tractor power will be increased to 324,634 horsepower. As a result, 90 percent of deep plowing, 83 percent of stubble plowing, 50 percent of grain and potato harvesting, 43 percent of sugar-beet harvesting, and 33 percent of hoeing will be mechanized.

The productivity of the soil will be enhanced by the further development of plant cultivation, for which 2 billion forints were appropriated. Moreover, by the completion of the Five-Year Plan, the amount of artificial fertilizer used will have been increased from 54 kilograms as originally planned, to 74 kilograms per cadastral yoke. The acreage of irrigated land will be increased 324,000 cadastral yokes as compared with an increase of 118,000 cadastral yokes in the original plan, and cotton acreage will be increased to 200,000 cadastral yokes.

The Five-Year Plan envisages several large-scale projects, including extended irrigation farming, improvement of alkaline soils, afforestation, and introduction of crop rotation with the inclusion of grasses. Due to mechanization, irrigation, and technical advances, the original estimates of crop yields during the operation of the Five-Year Plan have been revised upward. Thus, original estimates of yield per cadastral yoke on the state farms were raised from 0.7 quintals to 12.5 quintals for wheat, from 22 quintals to 150 quintals for sugar beets, and from 12.6 quintals to 17 quintals for corn. Estimates of average yields for the country as a whole were likewise raised from 7.2 quintals to 9.2 quintals for wheat, from 66.7 quintals to 132 quintals for sugar beets, and from 23 quintals to 26.5 quintals for alfalfa.

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For animal-breeding purposes, a total of 2 billion forints has been allotted under the revised Five-Year Plan. Crop productivity is increasing and the higher yields, together with the extension of the second planting of fodder crops, are expected to provide sufficient feed for the increased number of livestock under the large-scale animal-breeding program. As a result, it is estimated that by the completion of the Five-Year Plan period, the number of cattle will be increased to 2.4 million head, hogs to 5.2 million, and sheep from the present 17.5 million to 25 million. On an average, the number of farm animals per 100 cadastral yokes will be increased to 44 on the state farms and to 35 in the producer cooperatives.

Milk production for the country as a whole will increase 31 percent and wool yield by 7 kilograms per sheep per year, as compared with original Five-Year Plan estimates of 20 percent and 5 kilograms, respectively.

In afforestation, the sum of 1.5 billion forints has been set aside to repair the damage resulting from the ruthless exploitation of the capitalists. An area of 570 cadastral yokes will be afforested, and 80,000 new forests will be created [sic].

Plan fulfillment is predicted upon proper planning and an increase in labor productivity, especially in general farm work and in preparations for harvesting and threshing. Fall plowing and planting were performed conscientiously by the peasants under the direction of the party and the government, with the result that this year's crop is abundant. Under the Five-Year Plan, agricultural production will be increased a minimum of 50-55 percent.

The Council of Ministers recently issued a decree on economy, which includes agriculture. The Five-Year Plan also provides for the application of greater economy than practised heretofore. Economy includes conservation of material, time, and manpower. In agriculture, conservation of material must be given particular attention during the harvesting and threshing season.

The record fodder crop this year may be expected to encourage animal husbandry. Thus, the outlook for fulfilling Five-Year Plan quotas in livestock breeding is very good. One of the problems in animal husbandry concerns timely second-fodder-crop planting. However, sufficient moisture exists in the soil at present, and it remains only to perform the plowing and planting operations immediately after the harvest.

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